

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of October 20, 2015

LOCATION: Flood Control District Operations Building, 2801 West Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85338

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Lynch, Rod Jarvis, Dr. Robert Branch, Denise Merdon, and Carl Yoshioka

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Stapley and Devin Del Palacio

STAFF PRESENT: RJ Cardin, Director; Donna Southard, Recorder; Dawna Taylor, PIO; Aimee Upton, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Operations Manager, and Betsy Pregulman, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the October 20, 2015, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER – Rod Jarvis, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2015, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Rod Jarvis, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Lynch motioned and Commissioner Branch seconded to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting as presented. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion was approved.

ITEM #4 – DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Director Cardin informed the Commission that Scorpion Bay Marina was purchased from Lake Pleasant Marina Partners, LLC by Scorpion Bay Holdings, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Desert Troon Companies.

ITEM #5 – McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK HIGHLIGHTS – Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Mr. Hubbell informed Commissioners that 20 years ago this past summer, a lightning strike started the Rio Fire outside park boundaries. Strong winds pushed the fast moving fire, burning 14,000 acres within the park. Over the years, most of the vegetation has recovered; however, the park lost 90% of the saguaro population which takes 80-100 years to return.
- Mr. Hubbell provided a brief history of the park. The eroded decomposed granite from the McDowell Mountains provides an ideal surface for mountain bikers, runners and equestrian trails. Statistics show that 60% of park visitors visit the park to mountain bike. The park has 73 camping sites, great interpretive programs and hosts several bike, equestrian and running events every year.

ITEM #6 – APRA NATURAL RESOURCES AWARD VIDEO – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Director Cardin informed the Commissioners that the APRA (Arizona Parks and Recreation Association) held their annual conference in August. Parks had applied for one of the awards and was honored to receive the Natural Resources Award for the new Lake Pleasant trails.
- The award video was played at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy8IEyLxTOY>.
- Allen Ockenfels, Trails Supervisor, and Jonathan McKelvey and Brett Fredrick, Trails Crew, were introduced. Mr. Ockenfels acknowledged the AZCC (Arizona Conservation Corps) crew for their assistance and briefly explained the AZCC work study program.

ITEM #7 – FY2015 YEAR-END BUDGET REPORT – Aimee Upton, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Ms. Upton provided a brief overview of the initial FY15 Budget Challenges along with the year-end budgeted/actual expenditures and revenue comparisons in each of the funds.

ITEM #8 – PROPOSED UPDATE TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Director Cardin presented the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects funded in FY16. A list of proposed FY17 CIP projects was discussed. Most of the \$19.5 million for projects will be submitted as a General Fund budget request as Parks' fund balances will not cover most of the projects.
- The department has been asked by the Office of Management & Budget to develop a list of projects for a possible bond or other alternative financing program. Staff has prepared a draft list of prioritized projects for submittal, totaling approximately \$69 million or a little less than half of the total 10-Year CIP Program. Initial priorities focus on replacements or renovation of current structures/systems with an emphasis on health, safety and visitor amenities. The last bond program for Parks was in 1986.
- Commissioner Branch asked to designate on the CIP list which projects were not funded in FY16 and carried forward into the proposed FY17 request. He also asked if the costs for the ramada upgrades were for renovations or for replacements; Director Cardin informed the Commission that it will be a mixture of both, based on the condition of the ramada. Chairman Jarvis asked if some of the CIP costs for San Tan will be funded by Pinal County; Director Cardin informed the Commissioners that has not been agreed upon, but would be the recommendation.

ITEM #9 – CHM LAKE PLEASANT PROJECT UPDATE – RJ Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION ITEM

- Director Cardin updated the Commission on CHM's report of the feasibility of a resort project at Lake Pleasant. Staff wanted to ensure that design, engineering, and infrastructure be included in their study. The City of Peoria contributed funds for the study to include this information in the report. The report analysis indicates that a resort may be market sustainable, however it would not generate adequate return on required invested capital, therefore the investment feasibility is negative. The Phoenix resort market has been one of the slowest to recover in the country. CHM feels that once the resort occupancy starts to increase, the investment scenario will change. Parks and the City of Peoria Economic Development Department will continue to monitor the market and revisit the project as needed.
- Chairman Jarvis said that as Peoria continues to develop north, infrastructure will be closer to the Lake helping to reduce costs.

ITEM #10 – Set 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Dates and Locations – Rod Jarvis, Chairman, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM

- Chairman Jarvis solicited input from the Commissioners on locations to hold the meetings and on the number of meetings for 2016. Discussion was held and Commissioner Lynch motioned to set the 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission's scheduled meetings for the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, August, September, October, and November; with two to three meetings scheduled at various parks at 10:00 am and the remaining meetings held at 9:00 am in/near the current Flood Control location. Commissioner Branch seconded. With all in favor, none opposed, the motion was passed.

ITEM #11 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None.

Item #12 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item #13 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Chairman Jarvis called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Branch motioned, Commissioner Lynch seconded. With all in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.

RJ Cardin, Director

Rod Jarvis, Chair